

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRETENDER RENEWS CONTROVERSY ABOUT MONARCHY

REF: FBIS 4072 AND 4074 OF JUNE 17

SUMMARY: DON JUAN, PRINCEJUAN CARLOS' FATHER AND HEAD OF SPANISH ROYAL FAMILY, HAS SPARKED CONTROVERSY BY STATEMENT REITERATING HIS DYNASTIC CLAIMS, HIS READINESS TO RESPOND TO CALL TO LEAD DEMOCRATIC SPAIN, AND OBJECTIONS TO FRANCO'S "ABSOLUTE PERSONAL POWER". STATEMENT IS LATEST IN SERIES OF RECENT ACTIONS BY DON JUAN WHICH GOVT AND PROPONENTS OF ORDERLY CHANGE CONSIDER AS DISSERVICE TO MONARCHY AND PROSPECTS FOR PEACEFUL TRANSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. SOME 80 GUESTS REPRESENTING OPPOSITION POLITICAL GROUPS IN AND OUTSIDE SPAIN ATTENDED DON JUAN'S ANNUAL "NAME DAY" RECEPTION AT ESTORIL, PORTUGAL, JUNE 14. DON JUAN, COUNT OF BARCELONA, WHO HAD SPENT MOST OF SPRING IN MALLORCA OR CRUISING IN MEDITERRANEAN, HAD RETURNED TO ESTORIL TWO WEEKS AGO. WHILE IN SPAIN, DON JUAN HAD MEETING WITH NUMBER OF OPPOSITION LEADERS INCLUDING AT
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LEAST ONE (RAUL MORODO) INVOLVED WITH COMMUNIST-BACKED

"JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS
JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ.

2. IN HIS ESTORIL SPEECH DON JUAN FIRST THANKED GOP FOR ITS HOSPITALITY SINCE 1946 AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT "HISTORICAL DAY OF APRIL 25, LED BY ARMED FORCES," WOULD LEAD TO GENUINE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS FOR PORTUGAL. TURNING TO SPAIN, DON JUAN SAID IT SEEMED AS IF THERE TOO THE END OF A " PERIOD OF ABSOLUTE PERSONAL POWER" WAS DRAWING NEAR. AS CUSTODIAN OF SPANISH MONARCHY, HE SAID, HE HAD NOT ASSENTED TO EXERCISE OF THIS AUTHORITY BY "SOMEONE" (FRANCO) WHO HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN GIVEN A MUCH MORE LIMITED MISSION BY HIS COMRADES IN ARMS. AFTER EXPRESSING HOPE THAT SPANISH PEOPLE MIGHT RECOVER THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, DON JUAN SAID PEOPLE COULD COUNT ON HIM TO FACILITATE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUCH A GOAL AND HE WAS, AS ALWAYS, AT THE PEOPLE'S SERVICE. DON JUAN REFERRED TO HIS JULY 19, 1969 STATEMENT WHERE HE SAID NEITHER HE NOR SPANISH PEOPLE HAD BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT SUCCESSION. HE DENIED ANY CONNECTION WITH "ANY CONSPIRACY" ADDING HE COULD NOT TAKE INITIATIVE TO RESTORE "HISTORICAL MONARCH" WHICH HE EMBODIES.

4. REACTION TO DON JUAN'S STATEMENT WAS PROMPT AND SHARP IN ALL MEDIA. EMILIO ROMERO, DIRECTOR OF MOVEMENT'S MEDIA AND EDITOR OF "ARRIVA", PUBLISHED FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL JUNE 17 ATTACKING DON JUAN FOR ENDANGERING PRINCE JUAN CARLOS' FUTURE AND INSTITUTION OF MONARCHY. ROMERO REMINDED READERS OF HISTORICAL FACT THAT IN 1939 ONE-HALF OF SPAIN WERE LOSERS-- THE REPUBLICANS, AND AMONG THE WINNERS THERE WERE LARGE SEGMENTS OF REPUBLICANS, HE ACCUSED DON JUAN OF BEING DUPE OF CONSPIRATORIAL GROUPS ANXIOUS TO EXPLOIT HIS POSITION IN BELIEF REGIME'S END IS NEAR. EVEN THOSE WHO WERE PRESENT AT ESTORIL, ROMERO ALLEGED, LACKED ENTHUSIASM FOR MONARCHIST CAUSE, AND ALL ADVOCATED REFERENDUM ON MONARCHY. ROMERO NOTED RISKS INVOLVED IN DON JUAN'S STATEMENTS, PARTICULARLY AS "PEOPLE ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE SOVEREIGN THAN KINGS". SEPARATE EDITORIAL IN "YA" (CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT) JUNE 17 STATES THAT "WHOEVER REFUSES MONARCHY OF THE PRINCE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT HE CAN DO IT IN NAME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF MONARCHY OF DON JUAN BUT RATHER OF REPUBLIC". "YA" SAID SPAIN SHOULD TACKLE REAL PROBLEMS AND NOT ISSUE OF MONARCHICAL CLAIMS. DON JUAN HAS RECENTLY CREATED CONFUSION AND MADE TRANSITION MORE DIFFICULT.

5. COMMENT: DON JUAN'S STATEMENT IS FAR MORE MILITANT IN TONE THAN HIS STATEMENT A YEAR AGO, PARTICULARLY IN ITS VEILED ATTACKS AGAINST FRANCO AS USURPER. OTHER

PORTIONS REITERATED DON JUAN'S EARLIER POSITIONS, BUT IN SOMEWHAT SHARPER LANGUAGE. MISSING IS DON JUAN'S HINT AT END OF LAST YEAR'S SPEECH THAT HE MIGHT CONCEIVABLY RELINQUISH HIS CLAIMS TO THRONE IF THERE WERE SATISFACTORY UNDERSTANDING. LIBERAL MONARCHIST WHO WAS PRESENT AT ESTORIL STATED DON JUAN FAVORED STRONGER STATEMENT THIS YEAR BECAUSE HIS ADVISORS HAD WARNED HIM THAT HIS AND HIS FAMILY'S RECENT RECEPTION AT MALLORCA WITH MILITARY HONORS, HAD ENCOURAGED IMPRESSION OF HIS GRADUAL ACCEPTANCE OF FRANCO SYSTEM.

6. SHARP REACTION IN GOVT, AS REFLECTED IN NATIONAL MOVEMENT ORGAN "ARRIBA", INDICATES ITS HYPERSENSITIVITY. ON THE WHOLE THERE IS LITTLE PATIENCE IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES OR AMONG PUBLIC WITH DYNASTIC QUESTIONS. AS ROMERO UNDERLINED, THERE IS VERY NARROW POLITICAL BASE FOR MONARCHY IN SPAIN, THOSE FAVORING ORDERLY CHANGE ARE CONCERNED THAT SPECTACLE OF PUBLIC DYNASTIC SQUABBLING WILL FURTHER ERODE THAT NARROW BASE. STABLER

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